

in Delhi was sufficient only for meeting the requirements of PDS/RPDs etc. As such, the buyers from Delhi were directed to lift their allotment from Haryana depots.

(d) and (e). Yes Sir. A few suggestions/requests like release of sufficient stocks of wheat from open sale in Delhi and supply of wheat to the traders from the godowns in Delhi were received.

(f) Keeping in view the festival season, FCI has allotted a quantity of 20,000 tonnes wheat for sale under open market sale scheme in Delhi during November, 96, out of which 15,000 tonnes of wheat is to be released from the local godowns of Delhi.

[English]

Polyester Staple Fibre

1618. SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of polyester staple fibre and viscose staple fibre being produced monthly in India;

(b) whether there has been growing demand to allow the import of viscose staple fibre to bring the price of imported fibre at par with that of the indigenous one;

(c) the details of the manufacturers of viscose staple fibre in the country;

(d) whether the prices of dyed viscose fibre have increased recently; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) The average monthly production of Polyester Staple Fibre (PSF) and Viscose Staple Fibre (VSF) during the year 1995-96 and 1996-97 (April - September) is given below :-

| | (in tonnes) | |
|-----|-------------|----------------------------|
| | 1995-96 | 1996-97 (April - Sept.) |
| PSF | 19,281 | 22,054 |
| VSF | 16,195 | 13,673 |

(b) The import of VSF is allowed under OGL.

(c) There are two manufacturers of VSF in the country namely, Grasim Industry Limited and South India Viscose Limited with an installed capacity of 1,79,450 tonnes and 33,950 tonnes respectively.

(d) No increase in the price of Viscose fibre and dyed Viscose Fibre has been reported since April, 1995.

(e) Does not arise.

Bangladeshis in N.E. Region

1619. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Bangladeshis settled in the seven North-East States during the last three years;

(b) the steps taken by the Government to have a close watch on the movement of Bangladeshis across the border; and

(c) the action taken by the Government for deportation of the Bangladeshis from the country and the number of Bangladeshis deported so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) It is difficult to estimate the exact number of infiltrators from Bangladesh because they enter surreptitiously and are able to mingle easily with the local population due to ethnic and linguistic similarities.

(b) and (c). A series of measures have been taken by the Government to curb the problem of infiltration of Bangladeshi nationals into India. These measures include raising of additional battalions of Border Security Force, reduction of gaps between the border outposts, intensification of patrolling both on the land and the riverine border, accelerated programme of construction of border roads and fencing, increase in the number of outpost towers, provision of surveillance equipments etc. The matter has also been taken up with the Government of Bangladesh on various occasions. The progress of these measures is reviewed regularly at various levels. The number of Bangladeshi national deported by the Border Security Force during the last three years is as below :

| | |
|----------------|--------|
| 1994 | 22,110 |
| 1995 | 12,486 |
| 1996 | 8,216 |
| (Upto October) | |

Setting up of Commercial Zone by Pakistan

1620. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that Pakistan is setting up commercial zone around Nagarparkar, Birwaha and Badin just opposite the Kutch border;

(b) the likely consequences of the said step of Pakistan; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to improve patrolling in the said areas and to protect the interest of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) Yes, Sir. As per available information, Pakistan has

struck vital assets like oil, gas, coal and other minerals in the area across Kutch/Barmer and they are now in the process of exploiting it.

(b) Due to improvement of logistics the threat potential from across the border may increase.

(c) In order to tackle the situation effectively and protect interest of the country, five additional battalions of BSF were raised during 1994-95 and deployed on the Rajasthan and Gujarat border. The Water Wing of BSF and coastal patrolling by Coast Guard and Gujarat Police have also been strengthened and feasibility studies to erect fencing/flood lighting on Gujarat border are also being taken up. Security forces are constantly making assessment of the threat-perception in this sector and remedial measures are taken from time to time.

Inquiry Commission on Babri Masjid

1621. SHRI MUKHTAR ANIS : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Commission of Inquiry on the Demolition of the Babri Masjid in December 1992, has submitted its report;

(b) if so the salient features of the report; and

(c) the number of cases under prosecution and under investigation, separately with their present status, case-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Independently, on the basis of the investigations carried out by it into the offences connected with the demolition of the disputed structure on 6th December, 1992, etc., CBI had filed a combined chargesheet against 49 persons before the Special Court at Lucknow. All these cases have been committed for trial to the Court of Special Additional Session Judge, Lucknow.

Rhino

1622. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether one 'horned rhinos' in the country are on the verge of extinction;

(b) if so, their present number as compared to last three years;

(c) whether poaching is one of the causes of extinction of these species; and

(d) if so, the steps the Government propose to take to end poaching and strengthen other laws for protecting the range species like 'one horned rhinos'?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) and (b). No, Sir. Although the rhinoceros is an endangered species, it is not on the verge of extinction as there are several populations distributed in the states of Assam, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh. The present estimated population of rhinos as compared to the last three years are given below:

| Year | 1989 | 1991 | 1993 | 1995 |
|------------|------|------|------|------|
| Population | 1591 | 1567 | 1498 | 1566 |

(c) the main cause for the decline of rhino population during the period was due to a higher incidence of poaching in the year 1992 and 1993 which has been contained largely during the last two years.

(d) The steps taken by the Government for protection and conservation of rhinos and other rare species are given below :

- (i) Rhino is placed in Schedule I of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 thus getting the highest level of protection against hunting and commercial exploitation.
- (ii) India is a party to the Convention on International Trade in endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and abides by the regulations of International trade in endangered species of animals and articles. Under the provisions of the convention, rhino is under Appendix I of CITES which bans international trade in the species, products and derivatives.
- (iii) Cooperation of Police, BSF, DRI, Customs, Army and other enforcement agencies is also taken, as and when required, in apprehending the poachers and illegal traders.
- (iv) With a view to providing alternative home for Rhinos and also rehabilitating them in their erstwhile habitat programme for 'Rehabilitation of Rhinos' has been started in Dudhwa National Park and Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary of Uttar Pradesh.
- (v) A network of 5 wildlife sanctuaries and 4 national parks has been set up for conservation of the species and its habitat. Financial assistance is provided by the Central Government for development of these national parks and sanctuaries, on request from the State Governments.
- (vi) There is a scheme for payment of rewards to the informers, which among other things, helps in getting intelligence regarding smuggling of wildlife products.
- (vii) Hunting of wild animals included in Schedules I to IV of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, has been banned by law.